

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended)

An image forming apparatus comprising:

a fixing device disposed on a transportation path, on which a sheet member having a non-fixed image formed thereon is transported, and having roller members for fixing the image ~~with~~ by the application of heat to the non-fixed image;

~~an attaching/detaching~~ a mounting device for freely attaching or detaching the fixing device to or from the ~~main body of the~~ image forming apparatus; and

the mounting device including a guide member ~~provided in the main body of~~ associated with the image forming apparatus, for guiding the fixing device in a slidable manner;

the guide member including an inclined ~~slope~~, surface on which the fixing device is placed to be guided ~~slantwise~~ upward, along the inclined surface when the fixing device is attached to the image forming apparatus by the ~~attaching/detaching~~ mounting device.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended)

An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image is formed on the sheet member on the transportation path, and ~~further~~, the guide member guides the fixing device in a direction substantially perpendicular to the transportation path.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended)

An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the inclination angle of the ~~slope in the~~ guide member causes ~~is set at such an angle that the fixing device to~~ can slide by its own weight when the fixing device is withdrawn out of the ~~main body of the~~ image forming apparatus.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended)

An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the guide member includes a stopper for holding the fixing device ~~at the time~~ when the fixing device is moved to a ~~terminal~~ lower end of the ~~slope~~ inclined surface.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended)

An image forming apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the fixing device includes a sliding portion which is brought into ~~slide~~ sliding contact with the ~~slope~~ inclined surface;

the ~~slope~~ inclined surface has a recess for holding the sliding portion of the fixing device in temporary engagement; and

the recess is formed on the inclined surface ~~way toward~~ closer toward the inside of the ~~main body of the~~ image forming apparatus ~~from the position of~~ than the stopper ~~when the fixing device is disposed in the image forming~~ apparatus.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended)

An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, ~~wherein further~~
comprising a conductive resilient member for grounding the fixing device ~~via~~
~~the main body of~~ to the image forming apparatus ~~is disposed at the tip on a~~
~~side on which the fixing device is inserted.~~

Claim 7. (Currently Amended)

An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
a rotation input unit for transmitting rotating drive force to the roller
members in the fixing device;

a rotation output unit provided in ~~the main body of~~ the image forming
apparatus in such a manner as to be freely brought into contact with or
separated from the rotation input unit ~~in a freely oscillatable manner~~, for
applying the rotating drive force to the rotation input unit ~~in a state~~ when in
contact with the rotation input unit; and

a pressing member for pressing the rotation output unit against the
fixing device;

wherein the rotation output unit is shiftable in a direction of the
~~oscillating operation of the rotation output unit is set in substantially the same~~
corresponding to the direction ~~as that~~ in which the fixing device is moved on
the ~~slope due to its own weight~~, inclined surface such that the rotation output
unit is connected to the rotation input unit in a secure contact therewith by

pressing the rotation output unit against the fixing device by the pressing member.

Claim 8. (New)

An image forming apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said guide member includes a stopper for stopping motion of the fixing device as the fixing device slides out of the image forming device.

Claim 9. (New)

An image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said conductive resilient member provides a force for causing said fixing device to move along said inclined surface.

Claim 10. (New)

An image forming apparatus comprising:

an image fixing device for fixing an image formed by said apparatus;

a mounting device for mounting said fixing device to the apparatus and allowing said fixing device to be removed from the apparatus;

the mounting device including an inclined surface and a support member for supporting the fixing device on the inclined surface,

wherein the fixing device is slidable along said inclined surface in an upward direction for attachment to the image forming apparatus and slidable

along said inclined surface in a downward direction for detachment from said image forming apparatus.